United Nations A/56/134/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 August 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Item 111 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

Action taken by the United Nations system

1. Economic Commission for Africa

1. In 1999, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) finalized a study on establishing a SADC self-financing mechanism in order to assure adequate and regular funding for the implementation of projects and programmes aimed at greater regional integration. As a consequence, the idea of a "community levy" and/or a regional fund is under consideration by SADC. ECA also provided technical and advisory services for the preparation of the SADC 2000 report on economic and social conditions in Southern Africa; training in information technology and development of a SADC information and communication strategy; the SADC Gender Unit; and implementation of the Beira Corridor Project, which is a joint Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)/SADC/ECA project financed by the African Development Bank.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and SADC have identified the following priority areas for UNESCO support: education for prevention of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); development of an independent press; new information technologies; a regional policy on science and technology; harmonization of diplomas and academic mobility; and a regional cultural policy including joint regional activities. UNESCO supported the establishment of a database for the Southern African Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality and the SADC Initiative on Improving Regional Capacity in Education Policy. UNESCO provided technical and financial support for the convening of the first SADC youth conference, held in Maputo in September 2000, which recommended the setting up of a youth desk at the SADC secretariat in Gaborone.

3. In cooperation with the relevant SADC sectors, UNESCO is funding and providing experts for training in water resources management, renewable energy

* A/56/150.

** Contributions received since the issuance of document A/56/134.

01-52204 (E) 040901

education, formulation of a regional policy on culture and a multidimensional approach to education in HIV/AIDS prevention for policy makers.

3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

4. Cooperation between SADC and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is based on the 1996 Memorandum of Understanding regarding refugees, including forced population movements within or into the region and migratory movements, and on developing mechanisms for managing and addressing the root causes of such movements.

5. In January 2001, the Assistant High Commissioner held consultations in South Africa with representatives of Governments of SADC member States on refugee operations in the region. During 2000, UNHCR worked closely with the Joint Military Commission of the Lusaka Agreement on a Humanitarian Protocol on the Democratic Republic of the Congo on basic standards for ensuring the human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons. In April 1999, UNHCR participated in the joint SADC military exercise "Operation Blue Crane" in South Africa on the use of regional military assets for humanitarian purposes.

6. In addition to support in planning for man-made disasters liable to generate refugee or other forced population movements, UNHCR supports the efforts of regional governments in emergency preparedness in face of natural calamities. UNHCR contributed non-food items worth US$ 100,000 and cooperated in regional relief efforts in Mozambique because of the devastating floods in that country during 2000.

7. All 14 States members of SADC sent representatives to the UNHCR regional Symposium on Global Consultations on International Protection held in Pretoria in February 2001. UNHCR also participates, as an observer, in SADC ministerial and parliamentarian meetings, where it has the opportunity to raise issues relating to refugees.

4. Universal Postal Union

8. In accordance with the 1994 Seoul Postal Strategy for 1995-2000, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is assisting in the implementation of a regional computerization project, entitled "Support for computerization of international mail processing and monitoring", being implemented in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. A project in support of computerization of financial services processing and monitoring is also under way in the United Republic of Tanzania. Other continent-wide activities carried out in cooperation with the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) also benefit SADC countries by improving the quality of mail circulation in Africa. Within the framework of the 1999 Beijing Postal Strategy for 2000-2004, UPU will continue to contribute to regional projects in SADC countries on postal reform.